

CLAIMS

I claim:

5 1. An oil base well working fluid comprising a major proportion of oil and a minor proportion of ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material, said material having a particle size ranging from about 0.4 microns to about 2000 microns.

10 2. The oil base well working fluid of claim 1 wherein said ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material is oil and water wettable.

15 3. The oil base well working fluid of claim 1 wherein the amount of said ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material is from about 1 to about 80 pounds per 42 gallon oilfield barrel of said fluid.

20 4. The oil base well working fluid of claim 1, further comprising a fluid loss additive.

5. The oil base well working fluid of claim 4 wherein said fluid loss additive is selected from the group consisting of asphaltic materials, organophilic humates, and organophilic lignosulfonates.

6. A water base well working fluid comprising a major portion of water and minor portion of ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material, said ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material having a particle size ranging from about 0.4 microns to about 2000 microns.

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7. The water base well working fluid of claim 6 wherein said ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material is oil and water wettable.

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8. The water base well working fluid from claim 6 wherein the amount of said ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material is from about 1 to about 80 pounds per 42 gallon oilfield barrel of said fluid.

9. The water base well working fluid of claim 6 further comprising a fluid loss additive.

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10. The water base well working fluid from claim 9 wherein said fluid loss additive is selected from the group consisting of lignite, starch, carboxymethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl starch, and polyacrylates.

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11. A method of decreasing seepage and whole mud loss to subterranean formations during a drilling process having a drill string, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a drilling fluid composition comprising oil and water wettable ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material, said material having a particle size ranging from 0.4 microns to about 2000 microns; and

circulating said drilling fluid in said drill string during said drilling process.

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12. The method of claim 11 wherein the amount of said ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material is from about 1 to about 80 pounds per 42 gallon oilfield barrel of said drilling fluid.

10 13. The method of claim 11 wherein said drilling fluid is an oil base well working fluid further comprising a fluid loss additive.

14. The method of claim 9 wherein said well working fluid is a water base well working fluid containing a fluid loss additive.

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15. A composition of well working fluids comprising ground elastomeric crumb rubber particles.

20 16. The composition of well working fluids of claim 15 wherein said ground elastomeric crumb rubber particles range in size from about 0.5 microns to about 425 microns.

17. The composition of well working fluids of claim 16 wherein said ground elastomeric crumb rubber particles are added to said well working fluids at concentrations of about 1 pound per 42 gallon oilfield barrel to about 80 pounds per barrel.